

February Climate Information

Location	Normal Monthly Temp.	Normal High	Normal Low	All time High	All time Low	Normal Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
Austin/Mabry	54.6	65.1	44.0	99	-1	1.99	0	9.41
Austin/Bergstrom	54.1	64.1	41.0	101	8	1.73	0.02	7.34
Del Rio	56.1	68.0	44.1	99	11	0.96	0	7.82
San Antonio	54.7	67.1	42.4	100	4	1.75	Trace	7.88

In February of 1899 record cold affected Texas. A record February low came in 1899 for San Antonio of 4 degrees, set February 12, 1899. It was also a record February low for Austin of -1 on February 12, 1899. During this historic cold spell, extremely cold temperatures affected the entire state of Texas. On February 13, 1899 the whole part of Galveston Bay, except the main channel, was covered by thin ice. Lows in other locations around Texas on Feb. 12, 1899 include: Tulia -23; Amarillo -16; Brownsville 16; Dallas-Ft. Worth -8; Waco -5; Laredo 5; Galveston 8; and Corpus Christi 11. In the February of 1899 arctic outbreak, the coldest low in Brownsville was 12 on Feb. 13, 1899, still an all time record low for Brownsville. The low of -23 at Tulia, in the southern part of the Texas panhandle, Feb. 12, 1899 was a record low for the state of Texas, then was tied when Seminole observed -23 on Feb. 8, 1933. Unofficial reports of -30 came from Wolf Creek and also southeast of Perryton, both in the northern part of the Texas panhandle.

Another cold outbreak came in late January and early February of 1951. This Arctic Outbreak produced the longest period of at or below 32 for San Antonio. Total time below freezing for San Antonio was 108 hours and 28 min. from Midnight Jan. 29 to 12:28 pm February 2, 1951. The record for the longest period of at or below 32 at Austin was 140 hours from December 21 to December 27, 1983.

Many Februarys have had snow events associated with Arctic Outbreaks. From Year 2000 to 2011 snow events came to the area in February of 2003, 2004, 2010 and 2011. On the night of Thursday, February 3rd to the morning hours of February 4th, 2011 a snow event came to South Central Texas. Light freezing drizzle began to fall. This quickly formed a thin layer of ice on all exposed surfaces, making travel very dangerous. The winter precipitation soon turned mostly to light snow along with a few reports of sleet. A band of snow developed over the Hill Country and moved east, bringing moderate snow across the area. The heaviest snow amounts were from 1 to 2 inches, mainly across portions of Travis and Williamson Counties. Lighter amounts, generally less than one inch, fell across the Hill Country, portions of San Antonio, and areas east of Interstate 35. In February of 2010 a winter precipitation event came to the area on February 23, 2010. It turned colder February 22nd and 23rd, 2010 with a winter precipitation event on Tuesday the 23rd. The February 23rd winter precipitation event brought the most snowfall and sleet for the

winter of 2009/2010 season. A mix of rain, sleet and snow was observed over the Hill Country to adjacent parts of Central and South Central Texas on the February 23, 2010. Sleet was observed as far east as Yoakum in Dewitt County on February 23rd. On February 23rd, 1/2 to 3 inch snow was observed over the Hill Country; 0.3 to near 1.5 inches of snow in Austin; and near 2 to near 4 inches of snow over Williamson County. The heaviest snow reports were 4.2 inches 0.3 miles south of Jarrell in Williamson County; 3 inches 1.6 miles southwest of Andice in Williamson county; 3 inches 5.5 miles north, northwest of Georgetown in Williamson County; 3 inches 0.6 miles north, northwest of Liberty Hill in Williamson County; and 3 inches 1.9 miles west, southwest of Leander in Travis County. Reports of cold rain and sleet were observed from San Antonio to Austin and east to Yoakum. Snowfall amounts of 0.6 inches of snow were observed at Austin Mabry, 0.3 inches at Austin Bergstrom, and a trace at Del Rio. At San Antonio, 0.2 inches of sleet was observed. The sleet melted quickly after it fell.

In February of 1984 a very windy event came to South Texas, associated with a strong surface low and a cold front. On Sunday February 26 and Monday February 27, 1984 were very windy days occurred over a large part of South Texas. A strong low pressure system moved over North Texas, helping to bring a Pacific Cold Front and very windy conditions over South Texas and across the Gulf of Mexico.

On February 1, 1985, the final winter precipitation event affected South Central Texas when reports of sleet and snow were observed across the Hill Country and reports of sleet and some snow flurries from Austin to San Antonio. The cold arctic air cause several cold days across South Central Texas. The highs on February 1, 1985 are all time low daily highs for February 1st at Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio. The high February 1, 1985 at Austin was 23; 24 at San Antonio; and 26 at Del Rio.

Another February winter precipitation event came February 4, 5, and 6, 1989, when freezing drizzle affected the area. Highs in this event on February 4, 5, and 6, 1989 was 29 at San Antonio for 3 days in a row. At Del Rio highs were 37, 33 and 38 from February 4th to February 6th, 1989. At Austin from February 4th to 6th, 1989 the daytime highs were 24, 24, and 26.

Severe weather events have increased during some El Nino years. This occurred in February of 1973, 1983, 1987, 1992, and 1998. In February 1998 many severe weather events came to the area.

Extremes from warm to cold and cold to warm continue and are historically the greatest in February. February can be a month with the most extremes in temperatures, as the area begins to warm up, followed by periods of very cold weather after strong Arctic Fronts.

Extremes in temperatures came in February of 1981, when it warmed to the 70s on the 10th. A strong arctic cold front came in the late afternoon and evening of the 10th, and temperatures fell to the teens to near 20 the next morning of February 11, 1981.

February 1996 was an extreme month from freezing conditions and a winter precipitation event to summer like warmth and then back to very cold on the 29th. A winter precipitation event came in early February 1996, where Austin received snow on February 3, 1996. Conditions warmed up considerably by the mid to late part of the month. Highs reached 100 at San Antonio, 101 at Austin Bergstrom, 99 at Del Rio and 99 at Austin Mabry on February 21, 1996. The month closed out on the 29th with much colder weather, and a mix of winter like precipitation over the hill country, with welcome rains over the rest of the area in the drought of 1996.

The coldest February for Austin was February 1905, when the average monthly temperature was 42.3 degrees. The coldest February for San Antonio is also 1905, when the average temperature was 43.9. For Del Rio the coldest February was 49.9 degrees in 1978. For Austin Bergstrom the coldest February, October 1942 through today, was February 1978, when the average monthly temperature was 45.9 degrees. The 1970s had several cold Februaries in 1970, 1973, 1977, 1978, and 1979.

The warmest February at San Antonio was February of 1932, when the average monthly temperature at San Antonio was 63.0. The warmest February at Austin was February 1999 when the average was 62.3. The warmest February at Del Rio was February 2000, when the average monthly temperature was 63.5. The warmest February at Austin Bergstrom was February of 1996, when the average monthly temperature was 63.3 degrees.

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